



Annual Gala Held in Historic Georgian Revival Home



4112 Manor Road house circa 1960.

On April 28, the Chevy Chase Historical Society hosted its 2024 Spring Gala in Chevy Chase Hills, a neighborhood that has never been a Gala site before. Sara and Magruder Dent graciously opened their historic home at 4112 Manor Road to welcome our Gala guests. Their property has a long and proud history. It was once part of a 700 acre parcel known as “Clean Drinking”, which traces its history back to a 1632 grant from King Charles. It is believed that the unusual name arose in 1699, when British surveyors, having exhausted their supply of wine and spirits, were dismayed to have to resort to “clean drinking” from a spring on the estate.

The property subsequently was owned by Charles Jones, a wealthy tobacco planter and enslaver who built a mill on Rock Creek and a bridge to provide access to it. Both Jones Mill Road and Jones Bridge Road derive their names from these structures. In 1772, Jones sold a substantial portion of his estate to Rev. Alexander Williamson, Rector of Rock Creek. Williamson built a home on his new property and named it Hayes. Now known as Hayes Manor, it is widely recognized as one of the earliest and finest Georgian style houses in all of Montgomery County.

After Williamson’s death, the property was purchased at auction by Georgetown tobacco merchant James

Dunlop in 1792. Multiple generations of the Dunlop family occupied Hayes Manor for more than 170 years, adding two wings in the time they were there. In 2002, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute purchased Hayes Manor as an addition to its adjoining Chevy Chase headquarters. HHMI is currently renovating the house.

In 1929, the then-owner of Hayes Manor, George Thomas Dunlop, gifted adjoining acreage to his newly married son, Alexander McCook Dunlop. A new Georgian Revival style home was built for the young couple on that property, now 4112 Manor Road. Several successive owners made additions and alternations to the house, including two additions by distinguished architect Arthur B. Heaton. In 1994, the property was purchased by our Gala hosts, Sara and Magruder Dent, and this year it became the site of the CCHS Spring Gala. Hayes Manor can be easily and clearly seen from the Dent’s back yard.

CCHS thanks the Dents for welcoming our guests to their beautiful home, and thanks Gala Co-Chairs Honor Ingersoll and Sarah Hayes and their committee for orchestrating a memorable celebration of this historic property.



1939 map showing Hayes Manor (top left) and the Gala house (bottom left, in yellow lot).

Domestic Workers in the Early Years of Chevy Chase

Although a fundamental part of many households in early Chevy Chase, the history and lives of domestic workers have often been overlooked. In the 1900 census, the first taken after the establishment of Chevy Chase, almost a third of all households in the Bethesda census district were staffed by live-in domestic servants.

The architecture of early Chevy Chase homes reflects the established presence of domestic servants. Rooms for live-in servants were typically small and had access to other parts of the house through back halls and service stairs. Live-in staff would often reside on the third floor or in an attic, garage, basement, or in various collections of rooms in the “back part of the house.” In addition to room and board, payment for household labor could be as low as \$1-\$2 per day, and workers had very little personal time outside of the home.

Negative social stigma of domestic service as a low-status profession, combined with prevalent anti-Black racism and xenophobia, resulted in the industry being dominated by African Americans or white immigrants from Europe. Robert deSugny noted in his oral history that, “Most people in Chevy Chase did have domestic help. And up through the Civil Rights movement, most of that domestic help was African American.”

For women, work included cooking and serving dinner, doing laundry, and taking care of children. Men, when not hired as farm hands, stoked the furnace, cut grass, and chauffeured. Joseph Dewese Holston, who worked at the Brookville Market for over 40 years, had previously worked as a live-in butler and chauffeur. He and his wife, Viola, briefly lived and worked in the Scott and Baker households, where she did “all the cooking, all the washing and ironing, all the housework.”

The CCHS oral history collection shows that many residents recall neighbors and friends having live-in help, whether a child’s nurse or an entire staff of butlers, maids, and chauffeurs. In later decades, however, many remember their help coming to work on the bus, train, or trolley. Following World War II, fewer families were relying on live-in domestic help. The 1950 census showed a significant decrease in live-in servants, then employed in only 3.45% of households in the Chevy Chase area, as workers sought the freedom of independent living and separation of work and personal life.



In 1920, Elsie Offutt (seated above with Carrie Broadway) and her husband John worked in the Reichelderfer household, Elsie as a general servant and John as a houseman. By 1930, they lived together in the Morrell household as a cook and butler, respectively. By 1950, John had passed away and Elsie transitioned to live-out domestic work with another family, commuting from her apartment in Washington, DC.



Joseph Holston (shown at the Brookville Market, 1988) and his wife Viola worked as live-in domestic workers in for a “pretty well-to-do family” in Harriman, Tennessee before moving to Chevy Chase. The Holstons later lived on Hawkins Lane, a historic local neighborhood established by James Hawkins, a man who had been formerly enslaved in the Chevy Chase area. In 1988, Joseph Holston gave his oral history to CCHS. A transcript of it is available in our online collection database.

This article was written by Julia Ryan, a Holton-Arms Class of 2024 graduate who completed her senior project at CCHS. We thank Julia for her hard work and valuable contributions.

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CCHS archive director Renata Lisowski discusses
the house history exhibit with guests



Ardi and Chick Cullinane



Gala guests enjoy champagne on the terrace



CCHS President Susan Bollendorf presents gift to hosts Sara and Magruder Dent



Gala Co-Chairs Sarah Hayes and Honor Ingersoll



Jessica Johnson and Chris Kenny



B-CC High School string quartet



Neil Nott and Carolyn Greis



Sandy and Duane Heiler, Melissa Brown



Kim and Brandon Fried



Alex Triantis and Bob Broeksmid



Lauren Evans and Betty Boyle



Bill Dooley and Marion Blakey



Sumptuous supper served by La Ferme



Gala guests enjoy sunset dinner on the spacious lawn



Burke Frost Hayes Jr. and Charlie Ingersoll



Charles and Bonnie Duffy



Rachel Peric, Nadine Chapman,
Gail Sansbury, and CCHS Director Renata Lisowski



Bill Mills, CCHS photographer, and his wife Helen



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